BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 14 | Humidity 31% Partly sunny Sensex 83,570 | Nifty 25,694 | Gold 1,43,055 | Silver 2,89,801 | Dollar 90.73 | Euro 105.42 | GBP 121.62

Driving tests have become mere formalities as middlemen control process and many licence applicants say they did not even have to pass the test to get certified

CRASH TEST FOR DUMMIES

Automated testing systems, regular audits of RTO operations essential, say experts

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Bengalurean's social media post on the persistent dysfunction in the city's driving licence issuance process has thrown open a debate over the unsafe driving practices in the city. The citizen recounted two starkly different experiences obtaining a licence eight years apart in a detailed post on Reddit.

The post explains that they first applied for a learner's and permanent driving licence in 2017, attempting to follow the official procedure without assistance. The process, they wrote, involved multiple visits to the Regional Transport Office (RTO), conflicting instructions from officials, and what they describe as implied demands for bribes to progress the application. "No signature. No record. No shame," the author wrote of one interaction with staff — an episode that left them feeling forced to offer money to secure documentation.

By contrast, the same individual — now seeking a four-wheeler

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

BREAD SINNERS

Bakeries and condiment shops approach home minister accusing real and fake officers of extortion

PAGE 4

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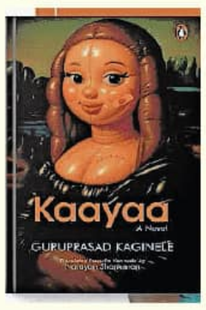
THINGS TO DO

01 Magic touch

Atta Galatta is bringing An Evening of Magic, an amazing magic show featuring top entertainers and magic acts. Curated and hosted by the internationally acclaimed mentalist Nakul Shenoy, each event in this series brings unique acts and performances by acclaimed magicians, alongside some of the most notable up-and-coming stars of magic. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 18, 6 pm**

02 Lit evening



Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of Kaayaa, a searing and honest meditation on beauty, ambition, and the human condition, which reaffirms Guruprasad Kaginele's voice as one of the most compelling in contemporary Kannada literature. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Jan 17, 6 pm**

03 Groovy beats

Windmills presents a live showcase by Naima Farao Quartet, featuring one of Europe's most compelling contemporary voices in nu jazz and alternative soul. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: January 17, 9.30 pm**

04 Fur fiesta

Pet Fed is back with two days of pure joy for pets and pet lovers alike, bringing paw-sitivity, fun, and unforgettable experiences. **Where: KTPO, Whitefield; When: Jan 17, 11 am**

05 City's hidden past

As part of BLR Hubba, the Department of Horticulture and Heritage Beku will present Lalbagh Unfolded, a guided heritage walk at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, tracing its evolution across centuries, combining archival research with personal insight. **Where: Lalbagh Botanical Garden; When: January 17, 8 am**

Journey of grit etched on mountain trails

Techie from Bengaluru summits Mount Aconcagua, his fourth peak in Seven Summits challenge, enduring harsh winds and rapid weather shifts during solo expedition

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Thirty-six-year-old Aritra Roy, a Bengaluru-based tech support professional, has completed four of the Seven Summits by successfully scaling Mount Aconcagua in South America last week. Standing at 22,841 feet, Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak outside Asia and has a success rate of only about 30 per cent. Battling snowstorms and blizzard-like conditions, Roy began his climb on December 29 and successfully summited the peak on January 7, showcasing grit, endurance, and unwavering determination.

With this achievement, Roy has now summited Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, Mount Everest, and Mount Aconcagua.

Hailing from Tripura and working in Bengaluru for the last two years, Roy's solo expedition was sponsored by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He set out on December 29, 2025, travelling by bus from Mendoza to Puente del Inca to reach the trailhead after securing the necessary permits. On the first day, he completed an eight-kilometre trek to Confluencia at an altitude of 3,340 metres, moving slowly under the weight of a 30-kilogram rucksack. The following day, December 30, was reserved for rest and acclimatisation. On December 31, after a gruelling seven-hour, 18-kilometre trek, Roy reached the base camp at 4,350 metres, known as Plaza de Mulas.

Inset: Aritra Roy, B'luru-based tech support professional, who successfully summited Mount Aconcagua

With recent achievement, Roy has now summited Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, Mount Everest and Mount Aconcagua

Roy explained that from January 1, the rotation cycles, or load ferries, had to begin. In mountaineering, a rotation involves carrying essential supplies to a higher camp, leaving them there, and returning to the original camp, a process that aids acclimatisation to altitude. Commonly referred to as 'hike high, sleep low', this practice is crucial for high-altitude expeditions. On January 1, Roy completed his first rotation to Camp 1 at 5,050 metres, a demanding 2.5-kilometre uphill ascent.

"On January 2, I permanently moved to Camp 1 with all the remaining equipment. There were no major problems until then, but sourcing water became an issue as there was very little snow available to melt. However, that is what mountaineering is all about; it teaches you to be self-reliant and remain calm in adverse situations," he said.

On January 3, Roy carried out another load ferry from Camp 1 to Camp 2, dropping off essential supplies, before returning and finally moving to Camp 2 on January 4, located at a height of 5,650 metres. January 5 was planned as a rest day, but from January 6 onward, conditions became extremely challenging, with wind speeds touching 100 kmph. Closely monitoring weather forecasts, he identified a narrow summit window on January 7, with only a slim chance the following day. With no time to attempt further rotations to Camp 3 at 6,000 metres, Roy made the critical decision to attempt the summit directly from Camp 2 despite facing a demanding 1,300-metre ascent in harsh conditions. Drawing on past high-altitude experience, he began the summit push at 3.30 am Argentina time on January 7. After a gruelling 10-hour-and-30-minute climb against fierce winds, he reached the summit at 2 pm local time, marking a defining moment of endurance.

He said that on Mount Aconcagua, weather shifts far more rapidly than on other peaks, with wind speeds soaring to 70–80 kmph, posing the greatest challenges for climbers. "Solo expeditions are tough, and this one tested me greatly. I lost nearly 8 kilos in just two weeks, my face was burnt, yet I'm extremely happy to have achieved my 4th summit out of the Seven," he said.

Roy stayed at the summit for 45 minutes before descending to Camp 2, a journey that took nearly five hours. Weather conditions worsened soon after, with snowstorms and blizzards dumping over two feet of snow in the following days, forcing the closure of summit attempts. "I breathed a sigh of relief thinking that I made a timely decision to be up on 7th," he said, thanking Mt Aconcagua, the guardian of the Andes, for letting him pass. With four of the Seven Summits now completed, he has set his sights on his next challenge, a polar mission.

TAPMI Bengaluru launches Centre for Social Empowerment

TA Pai Management Institute (TAPMI), a constituent of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), marked its Founders' Day at the MAHE Bengaluru Campus ahead of the 104th birth anniversary of T A Pai. The institute announced the launch of the Centre for Social Empowerment (CSE) during the event attended by faculty, students, alumni, and representatives from academia, industry, and the social sector. The Centre for Social Empowerment will work on areas such as employment, inclusion, literacy, entrepreneurship, basic services, and healthcare through research, training, and partnerships. The Centre was inaugurated by Dr Raghavendra Prabhu P, Additional Registrar and Director Administration, MAHE Bengaluru. TAPMI Bengaluru also announced collaborations with Lotus Petal Foundation, NCUI, and United Way Bengaluru, along with recognition of student projects and research contributions. — BMB

Recruitment scam busted: Candidates booked for identity substitution

A case of large-scale recruitment fraud has come to light at the Institute of Wood Science and Technology under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Bengaluru, where seven people allegedly secured jobs through unfair means. According to the police, one set of candidates wrote the recruitment examination, while entirely different individuals joined duty using forged and fraudulent documents. Following an internal probe, a complaint was filed and an FIR has been registered at Sadashivanagar Police Station against seven accused, all of whom are currently absconding. Forensic science laboratory reports, CCTV footage and technical analysis confirmed that impersonators appeared for the exams and attendance, while others drew salaries. The institute's director has sought legal action after evidence, including answer sheets and surveillance visuals, established cheating and identity substitution. Police said efforts are on to trace and arrest all the accused. — BMB

Consumers seek relief from rising food service rates

Unchecked price hikes in hotels and online food delivery platforms are pinching the city's middle class, triggering fresh demands for government intervention to regulate food prices. Customers complain that while hotels promptly raise prices when LPG, milk, electricity or vegetable costs go up, they rarely roll back rates when input prices fall. From coffee and breakfast items to full meals, prices have steadily climbed, adding to the daily cost burden for families that depend on eating out.

The anger is sharper against food delivery apps, where service and delivery charges often push the final bill 30 per cent or more above the food's base price. "Discounts are frequently used as bait, only for high platform fees to cancel out any savings. Even with GST rates on several items reduced in recent years, menu prices remain unchanged. Hence, we are urging the government to revive the price-control model introduced during former Chief Minister Devaraj Urs's tenure, when standard rates, portion sizes and weights were fixed," said Vishaka S, a college professor.

Many now want the State to step in again, pointing to initiatives like Indira Canteens as proof that affordable food pricing is possible, and calling for similar measures to curb spiralling food costs. — BMB

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Bakery owners accuse police of harassment, extortion

Traders demand minister intervene after repeated seizures and bribe threats

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Small food retailers say enforcement excesses are crippling daily business

State-level federation representing small food retailers has sought ministerial intervention, alleging illegal seizures, extortion demands and unauthorised inspections disrupting daily business operations

Unable to cope with police harassment and the menace of fake officers, the Karnataka State Bakery, Condiments and Small Entrepreneurs' Federation (KSBCSEF) has submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, requesting suitable action against those responsible for harassment and corruption. The KSBCSEF, representing thousands of bakeries and condiment shops, submitted the memorandum to the Home Minister a few days ago, seeking a permanent solution to their problems.

"We have submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara explaining how owners of bakeries, condiment shops and small businesses have been facing numerous problems due to the police seizing cigarettes and imposing hefty penalties on bakery and condiment shop owners for selling cigarettes," said D B Pratap Shetty, president of the KSBCSEF.

Expressing concern over police harassment, Shetty said that victims are usually expected to lodge complaints with the jurisdictional police, seeking protection and justice. "Whom should one approach when the police themselves are accused? I request the government to ensure clear guidelines and norms for the welfare of thousands of people who depend on bakeries and condiment shops for their livelihood. We have appealed to the Home Minister to take stringent action against police officers responsible for harassing bakery and condiment shop owners. We hope the Home Minister will resolve our problems. I expect the Home Minister's intervention will prevent bakery and condiment shop owners from resorting to agitations to seek justice," he said.

He said the menace of fake food safety officers has become a nuisance for bakery and condiment shop owners. "Food Safety Officers have lodged complaints at various police stations, including Jigani, RMP Yard and Anekal police stations, against people impersonating food safety officers and inspecting bakeries and condiment shops," he added.

Demanding that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner direct the jurisdictional Bengaluru city corporations to stop seizing tobacco products from bakeries and condiment shops, Prabhakar B, who owns two condiment shops, said, "We are not only facing problems from fake food safety officers but also from city corporation officials. They visit bakeries and condiment shops once or twice a month and seize tobacco products. They compel us to pay bribes to get them back. They ask whether we want to pay 5,000 as a penalty in court or 3,000 to them to retrieve our tobacco products and avoid going to court."

Ranjith Shetty, a condiment shop owner, said he has been facing several problems from the police and city corporation officials. "There are occasions when city corporation officials and the police seize tobacco products without any notice or warning. I want the authorities concerned to stop the manufacture of tobacco products. If the authorities ban tobacco products, we will not sell them," he said.

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Sewage overflow
Sultanpet

Sewage water has been overflowing for the past three days near No. 24, 2nd Cross, KV Temple Street, Sultanpet, close to KHS Adarsh School, despite a complaint having been lodged.

Pedestrian danger
Shankar Mutt Circle

At Shankar Mutt Circle, narrowed roads, speeding buses, lack of zebra crossings, footpath encroachment, and inaction by the BBMP and traffic police have made pedestrian movement unsafe, despite repeated complaints.

Faded markings
D'Souza Circle

The pedestrian pathway markings at D'Souza Circle have faded, posing a risk to public safety.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Alinda D. Dias W/o Ronny Hsung residing at A2, Rusthumbagh Road, Rusthumbagh Main Road, Kodihalli, HAL 2nd Stage, stating that, I have lost the Absolute Sale Deed (BNG[U]-BLR[S] 7476/2001-02) on 22.12.2016 at near Rusthumbagh Main Road. In this regard, i have filed a complaint (Lost Report No.1967489/2025) to Bangalore city police on 20.12.2025. If anyone finds the said document, please contact to above address or Mobile: 8431665103.

Citizens take trash into their own hands!

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After five years of unchecked waste dumping, burning and poor management between Challaghatta Metro Station and Bidadi, residents have taken matters into their own hands. With no action from the authorities, as the area falls under a panchayat, 80 residents formed Hasiru Hejje, Swaccha Usiru. In association with the Kumbalgodu Gram Panchayat, they are set to organise a first-of-its-kind green carnival to raise awareness about waste segregation, plastic reduction and responsible waste management.

Each apartment complex and community had independently tried to address the waste issue for three to six years, including efforts to engage the panchayat. Letters were submitted, meetings were held and marches were organised with placards. However, waste dumping and burning would stop temporarily, only to resume again.

Madhuri from GoodEarth Malhar and Akshata from Gopalan Olympia met through work and began discussing their shared struggles, marking the beginning of the collective. "We reached out to other residents and then to Brigade Panorama as well. Now we have 80 people in the collective. We started this in December 2025. We all faced the issue of waste dumping and burning on roads and in surrounding areas, leading to terrible air pollution and spikes in the AQI. We purchased homes with the hope of a better life for ourselves and our children; this polluted, waste-filled environment is not what we envisioned," said Akshata.

Trash on backroad to Brigade Panaroma

Tired of persistent waste issues, residents of Gopalan Olympia, GoodEarth Malhar and Brigade Panorama have formed the citizen collective Hasiru Hejje, Swaccha Usiru. Working with the Kumbalgodu Gram Panchayat, they aim to create sustainable, pollution-free living conditions.

As part of this effort, they will celebrate Hasiru Habba on January 17, a first-of-its-kind carnival to raise awareness on waste segregation, reducing plastic use, and responsible disposal. Akshata said, "We live near the Vrishabhavathi River, now a polluted drain, with poor waste management and little awareness. We aim to bring tangible solutions through citizen engagement, proper systems, and accountability."

The festival will feature a schoolchildren's march, over 15 stalls with free medical check-ups, games, repair workshops, pre-loved goods for 100, and initiatives like 'kasu for kasa' where waste can be exchanged for vouchers. Visitors can also explore sustainable practices, crafts, children's artwork, and live environmental-themed music.

Through Hasiru Habba, residents hope to move beyond temporary protests to build lasting change through awareness, responsibility, and collaboration with local authorities.

Civil rights group seeks action to protect migrants

Group demands action against man allegedly harassing migrant workers over nationality and urges government to send clear message against vigilantism

Group alleges that accused has been repeatedly entering dwellings of migrant workers and threatening them

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A civil rights organisation has approached the Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) seeking immediate criminal action against Puneeth Kerehalli, accusing him of intimidating migrant workers, unlawfully entering their dwellings, and communalising the issue of migration.

In a detailed complaint submitted on Friday, the Campaign Against Hate Speech alleged that Kerehalli, who is currently out on bail in a murder case, has been repeatedly entering dwellings and sheds of migrant workers, interrogating them about their nationality and demanding identity documents while threatening and intimidating them.

"These actions are illegal, undermine the dignity and safety of workers and risk provoking mob violence," the organisation stated, adding that several such acts have been documented and uploaded by Kerehalli himself on social media platforms. Referring to a video uploaded on January 14, the group alleged that Kerehalli was seen holding a protest and shouting slogans at night, calling residents 'illegal migrants' and taking videos of persons without their consent, in violation of their right to privacy.

The complaint further claimed that residents were asked their nationality and were harassed by a group accompanying him.

The organisation alleged that the video content and its title were overtly communal. They stated, "It is evident from the title itself that Puneeth Kerehalli was not raising any so-called illegal migration issue, but rather, was communalising and instilling hatred against Muslims by branding them as illegal migrants."

The complaint also flagged instances where Kerehalli allegedly interfered with official functioning. "He is seen intimidating the police and insisting that the police conduct an inquiry in his presence, and not in the police station," the complaint stated. It further alleged that Aadhaar cards were taken from residents without requisite authorisation.

Citing recent cases of migrant workers being assaulted or killed, the organisation warned that such conduct was dangerous. "These tragedies confirm that such harassment is not a harmless query but potentially a prelude to mob violence, grievous assault, and even lynching," the complaint said.

Past tragedies confirm that such harassment is not harmless query but potential prelude to mob violence, grievous assault and even lynching, says civil rights organisation

Serious concerns were also raised about police conduct. "It is reported that at times Kerehalli acted in the presence of police personnel, raising grave concerns of dereliction of duty, tacit encouragement of vigilantism, and failure to protect constitutional rights," the complaint said, seeking a departmental inquiry.

Pointing out that Kerehalli is on bail in a murder case, the organisation alleged abuse of bail conditions.

"Such conduct constitutes abuse of bail, and warrants the police placing these facts before the court to seek revocation of bail," it stated. Calling the actions a direct assault to the rule of law, the organisation said it violated the constitutional guarantee to a life with dignity and to equality.

Among its demands, the group sought immediate registration of FIRs, steps for cancellation of bail, a probe into police complicity and clear instructions that no private person or group may question, detain, or demand documents from residents on suspicion of nationality.

"Migrant and working-class communities are entitled to safety, dignity, and equal protection under the Constitution," the complaint added, urging the State to send a clear message that vigilante conduct will not be tolerated.

Man sentenced to life for murder

A murder accused was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Rs 15,000 by a Bengaluru Rural court after he was found guilty of killing a co-worker during a violent altercation at a labour shed in Kumbalgodu in January 2021.

According to the prosecution, the incident occurred on January 3, 2021, around 5.30 pm at a shed in Vijayashree Layout, behind Philomena School on BM Road. Complainant Basavaraju stated that an argument broke out between Hanumantharaju and the shed owner Sanjay. During the fight, Hanumantharaju was first struck with a stick. Sanjay then allegedly snatched the stick and assaulted Hanumantharaju on the head and leg, causing severe injuries. The victim collapsed on a road nearby and bled profusely. He was declared dead while being shifted to hospital in a 108 ambulance.

Based on the complaint filed on January 4, 2021, Kumbalagudu police registered a murder case under Section 302 of the IPC. After investigation, the accused was arrested and a charge sheet was filed before the II GMFC Court, later transferred to the VI Additional District and Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural.

After examining the evidence and witnesses, the court held the accused guilty and on January 12, 2026, sentenced him to life imprisonment with a fine, failing which he must undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment. **BMB**

Police nab duo for burgling house

The Sampigehalli police arrested a burglar within 24 hours of a house theft reported in Yelahanka, recovering some of the stolen valuables, as well as the vehicle and tools used in the crime. In a surprising twist, two women in Bengaluru had disguised themselves as boys to break into the home of an auto-rickshaw driver while he was away on January 13. Their actions were captured on CCTV, which helped the police identify and apprehend the duo, according to media reports.

According to the police, the complainant, Sangameshwar bin Madivalappa (42), a resident of Agrahara Layout, Yelahanka, had locked his house on the morning of January 13 after dropping his children at school. When he returned home around 5.30 pm, he found the door lock cut open and valuables missing. Gold ornaments weighing around 30 grams, silver ornaments weighing 60 grams and Rs 15,000 in cash had been stolen.

The police reviewed CCTV footage and noted the registration number of the motorcycle used by the accused to flee the scene. Investigations traced the vehicle to two Bengaluru residents, Shalu and Neelu, who were later arrested. On January 14, authorities apprehended Reshma Kom Babu (45) near Vinayaka Talkies in DJ Halli. The police also recovered gold ornaments weighing 3.217 grams, silver ornaments totaling 80 grams, a Honda Dio scooter with a fake number plate and altered color, and the tools used in the burglary.

Police said the accused had disguised herself to evade identification. Further investigation revealed her involvement in similar cases registered at Hebbal, Adugodi, Bommanahalli, Nelamangala, Jalahalli and Kothanur RMC Yard police stations. Investigation is on to recover the remaining stolen property. **BMB**

Woman immolates self and daughter

In a tragic incident at Krishnappa Layout, Sanjay Nagar, a 29-year-old woman and her four-year-old daughter lost their lives after the woman allegedly set herself on fire following a domestic dispute with her husband on Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Seetha (29) and her daughter Srishti (4). The tragic incident occurred at Krishnappa Layout under the limits of the Sanjay Nagar Police Station. According to the police, Seetha and her husband, Govind Bahadur, natives of Nepal, were employed as domestic help at a house in Sanjay Nagar.

The couple had been provided a small house near their workplace for accommodation. Police said the couple often quarrelled, allegedly due to Govind Bahadur's frequent trips to Nepal, where he would stay for several months at a time.

On Wednesday evening, Seetha reportedly had a heated argument with her husband over the phone. Following the dispute, she allegedly poured petrol on herself and her daughter and set them ablaze inside the house. Seetha died on the spot after sustaining severe burn injuries. Despite treatment, the child succumbed to her injuries on Thursday morning.

Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Court orders ignored as woman forest officer denied promotion

Eligible since 2021, Assistant Conservator writes to Governor, citing KAT orders, sealed cover misuse, and promotion of juniors while her file stalled

Dalit woman officer alleges deliberate delays, false charges, defined tribunal orders, seeks promotion DCF rank after years of wait continues

Despite court directions, the Forest Department has not promoted an Assistant Conservator of Forests who has been eligible since 2021, triggering concerns over administrative delay and disregard for judicial orders.

A woman Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) has written to the Karnataka Governor and the Chief Minister, alleging that she has been intentionally denied promotion for over a decade despite meeting all eligibility criteria under service rules. ACF H. Seema, currently posted at the Forest Department Research Centre in Doresanipalya, Bengaluru, has submitted a written complaint stating that she has completed nearly 14 years of service but continues to be overlooked for promotion to the post of Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF).

In her representation, Seema has sought directions to senior Forest Department officials to process her promotion strictly in accordance with qualifications, seniority, and existing service rules. She stated that she joined the Forest Department as an ACF through direct recruitment during 2011–13. As per service norms, an officer becomes eligible for promotion to the rank of DCF after completing five years of service. However, she alleged that this rule has been repeatedly violated in her case without any valid justification.

"I do not know why I have not been promoted despite court orders. In 2023, false allegations were levelled against me, including claims of illegal sales in Madikeri, even though I was not posted there at the time of the incident. I cooperated with the inquiry, which concluded that I was not guilty. There is now no departmental inquiry or disciplinary proceedings pending against me. Despite this, my promotion has been blocked with malicious intent," Seema alleged.

She further claimed that several officers with less eligibility or comparable service records have been promoted ahead of her, resulting in injustice and a violation of seniority norms. In her complaint, Seema referred to the Karnataka Forest Department Service (Recruitment) Rules, 2003, Schedule II, sub-rule (2) of Rule 2, which states that an Assistant Conservator of Forests is eligible for promotion to the post of Deputy Conservator of Forests. Despite completing 14 years of service, she said she has not been promoted so far.

Seema also pointed out that on July 7, 2021, 35 officer's senior and junior to her were promoted from ACF to DCF, while her promotion was kept on hold citing a pending departmental inquiry. She submitted a representation citing Supreme Court orders, requesting that her promotion not be withheld merely on the ground of a departmental inquiry and sought consideration under the sealed cover procedure.

In 2022, the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) directed the Forest Department to remove the sealed cover on her case and grant her promotion. However, she alleged that the order was not implemented. "Despite directions from the tribunal and the availability of all required records, I continue to be denied promotion. This amounts to harassment and deliberate delay," she stated.

Seema further alleged that the sealed cover procedure was not properly followed in her case, even as officers from her batch were promoted. She said that in Application No. 3156/2021, the KAT had explicitly directed the Forest Department to open the sealed cover and grant her promotion, but the order was deliberately ignored.

She has sought accountability against officials for defying orders, warning that continued inaction service rules, judical authority, and may compel her to purse further legal remedies to protect constitutional rights.

—BMB

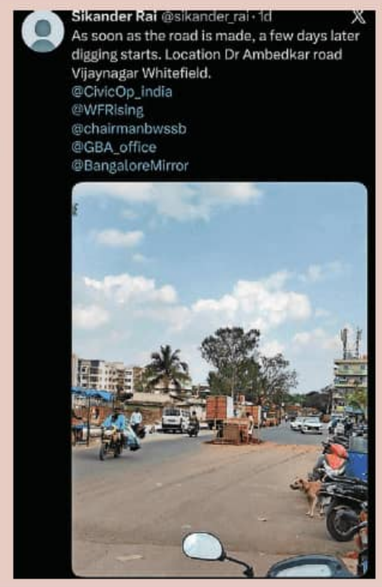
SOCIALTATTLE

What's Tweeting

1. Visual pollution is back after years. Illegal banners everywhere, risking pedestrian and vehicle safety. Authorities remain silent despite clear violations.

Angry GSB @angrygsb · 16h
Not a village road. This is the great Hennur Main Road or "New Airport Road" dug up a large stretch & filled with sand.
Commuters and nearby shops and residents suffering dust pollution over last few weeks because someone incompetent from @GBAChiefComm @bwssbchairman screwed up.

2. Roads get rebuilt, only to be dug up again days later. Dr Ambedkar Road, Whitefield residents suffer endlessly, said a platform X user


Sikander Rai @sikander_rai · 1d
As soon as the road is made, a few days later digging starts. Location Dr Ambedkar road Vijaynagar Whitefield.
@CivicOp_India
@WFRising
@chairmanbwssb
@GBA_office
@BangaloreMirror

3. This is Hennur Main Road stated a social media user pointing out that it is not a village lane. Dug-up stretch filled with sand causing severe dust pollution daily.

Srinivas Alavilli @srinualavilli · 20h
Shame on those that are Installing illegal banners and hoardings. After many years it's painful to see this visual pollution which is also safety hazard for pedestrians and even vehicles

SNA–SPARSH transition delays NHM payments

The Karnataka government has explained the reasons for the delay in disbursing salaries to contractual employees under the National Health Mission (NHM) and incentives to ASHA workers for November and December 2025, attributing it to a mid-year transition in the fund management system.

According to the Office of the Mission Director, the delay occurred due to the shift of the NHM scheme to the new SNA–SPARSH system, in line with Government of India guidelines. Officials said the transition from the earlier Single Nodal Agency (SNA) framework required several procedural and technical changes in fund flow and payment mechanisms at both the Central and State levels. These adjustments temporarily disrupted the release and processing of funds.

Under the SNA–SPARSH system, the State government is permitted to process payments only after receiving the Central government's share. As a result, delays in the release of Central funds, combined with system migration challenges, affected the timely payment of salaries and incentives.

The Centre released ₹175.75 crore on January 8, 2026, which is currently being processed along with the State's contribution for onward transfer to districts. Officials said steps are being taken to expedite payments. State to prioritise NHM salaries regardless grants. —BMB

KAS aspirants stuck in result limbo

Nearly nine months after the Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) main examination, candidates continue to wait for results, trapped in prolonged uncertainty. The delay comes on the heels of a troubled recruitment cycle that saw errors in preliminary examination question papers and repeated rescheduling, eroding confidence among aspirants.

The commission had earlier assured faster evaluation, citing the use of advanced technology and a secure intranet-based system for the first time. However, the extended silence has only intensified frustration, with many candidates unsure whether to keep waiting or pursue alternative career paths.

Aspirants allege that the delay raises serious questions about administrative efficiency, particularly when quicker processing was promised. Compounding matters is the ongoing legal dispute over reservation limits, with court orders restricting fresh recruitment notifications and ambiguity persisting over internal quotas. Sources, however, indicate that most evaluations are complete and results could be announced by month-end.

—BMB

Gauri Lankesh murder accused wins civic seat

Shrikant Pangarkar, an accused in the 2017 killing of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, on Friday won the corporator election from the Jalna Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra.

Vote counting is underway for 29 civic bodies across the State that went to polls a day earlier. Pangarkar contested as an Independent candidate from ward number 13 and defeated his nearest rival, Raosaheb Dhoble of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Pangarkar secured 2,661 votes, while Dhoble polled 2,477 votes, according to election officials.

Except for the Shiv Sena, almost all major political parties had fielded candidates against Pangarkar. Gauri Lankesh was shot dead outside her Bengaluru residence on September 5, 2017, sparking nationwide outrage.

In August 2018, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested Pangarkar under the Explosives Act, Explosive Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He was granted bail by the Karnataka High Court in September 2024.

Pangarkar earlier served as a Jalna municipal councillor from 2001 to 2006 when the Shiv Sena was undivided. After being denied a party ticket in 2011, he joined the Hindu Janjagruti Samiti. Meanwhile, the BJP is heading towards controlling the 65-member Jalna civic body, leading in 41 seats, underscoring shifting local political equations and intensifying debate over criminal cases and electoral accountability in civic governance. —BMB

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Premium homes boom on Kanakapura Road

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Kanakapura Road is witnessing a surge in demand for premium residential properties, driven by the availability of modern infrastructure and the inclusion of the area in the State government's Greater Bengaluru development plans. The corridor has emerged as a hotspot for property investors, with several ongoing development projects, high-end amenities, and proximity to reputed educational institutions and religious sites making it an attractive choice for both city residents and buyers from other regions. Mid-income housing options along the road are particularly popular, positioning Kanakapura as a growing cosmopolitan residential hub.

Connectivity boost

The planned Satellite Ring Road (SRR) will enhance connectivity to Kanakapura Road, linking it efficiently with Ramanagar and other surrounding areas. The road already offers excellent local access, and infrastructure upgrades, Metro expansion, and other Greater Bengaluru South initiatives are expected to further reduce traffic congestion while improving urban mobility.

Urban appeal

Raju L, a realty developer, said, "The area blends semi-rural charm with urban conveniences, encompassing localities such as Harohalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bilekahalli, Konanakunte, Kaggali, Talaghattapura, Anjanapura, and Electronic City. Its mix of IT and corporate offices, malls, entertainment hubs, and diverse lifestyle facilities attracts residents from across India and abroad. Restaurants, wellness centres, party halls, shopping complexes, and other commercial amenities have contributed to rising property values."

–Prakash VL

City's next growth ring takes shape

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar recently said that areas around the city, including Hoskote, Nelamangala, Doddaballapura, Devanahalli, Ramanagara, Magadi, and Bidadi, are rapidly emerging as the "New Bengaluru", driving planned urban growth and drawing strong interest from the real estate sector. He said Bengaluru's rapid expansion is being channelled through the structured development of surrounding taluks, which will boost infrastructure, improve land values, and create new urban hubs.

He stressed that development around Bengaluru must remain within the legal framework and be aimed at enhancing property values while preserving the city's core identity. Shivakumar said the vision behind naming new districts such as Bengaluru North and Bengaluru South was to build world-class urban centres capable of attracting global attention. Special focus will be placed on ensuring better prices for farmers' land in areas such as Nandagudi, Solur, and Bidadi, while planned growth in Bengaluru Rural is expected to accelerate housing and commercial projects. **–BMB**

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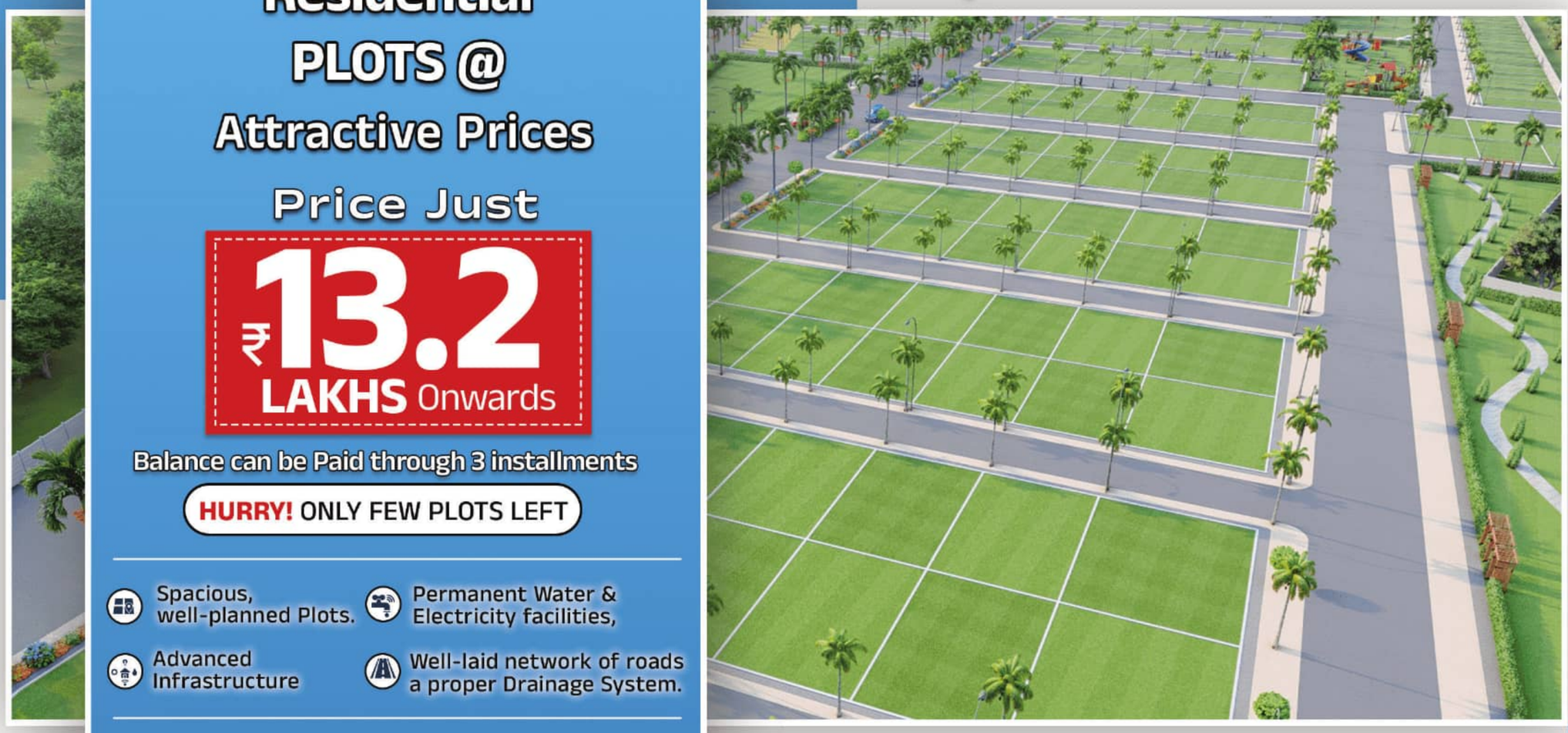
India's real estate eyes $10 trillion

India's real estate sector is staring at a massive growth leap, with a new report projecting the market to reach a $10 trillion valuation by 2047. The sector could account for up to one-fifth of the country's GDP, powered by better infrastructure, digital adoption, and a stronger push towards sustainable development. Technologies such as AI are expected to fuel demand for data centres and smart city projects, reshaping urban landscapes.

According to a joint CII–Colliers report, this expansion will not only create jobs but also attract big-ticket institutional investments. Improved highways and transport links will boost connectivity, while green policies and tech-led planning will channel fresh capital into the sector. The report also flags rising demand for affordable housing and senior living, with Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities set to emerge as the next engines of real estate-driven economic growth.

–BMB

KAGGALIPURA



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Budget plea to save affordable housing

As the Union Budget for FY 2026–27 draws closer, Knight Frank India has outlined a set of policy measures aimed at addressing stress points in India's housing market, with a strong focus on affordable housing and rental supply. The real estate sector accounts for about seven per cent of India's GDP and supports more than 70 million jobs, making budgetary support critical for sustained growth.

Affordable housing demand under pressure

Sales of homes priced below ₹50 lakh have fallen sharply over the years. This segment accounted for more than half of total housing sales in 2018, but its share has dropped to around one-fifth by 2025. While overall home sales have remained steady, affordable housing transactions declined year on year in 2025. Rising property prices, reduced purchasing power and limited access to home loans are key factors behind the slowdown.

Call to revise PMAY limits and tax benefits

Knight Frank India has suggested revisions under PMAY 2.0 to reflect prevailing city prices. Currently, the scheme links interest subsidy benefits to a house value cap of ₹35 lakh, which is often unrealistic in larger cities. The firm has

proposed raising this cap to ₹75 lakh or aligning it with RBI norms to enable more buyers in metropolitan areas to qualify.

The consultancy has also urged the government to increase the home loan interest deduction under Section 24(b) from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh. This, it said, could ease the financial burden on first-time buyers and help revive demand.

Push for a stronger rental housing market

Rental housing remains limited despite strong demand from low-income households. Knight Frank India has proposed tax relief on rental income from homes priced up to ₹50 lakh. A full exemption on rental earnings up to ₹3 lakh could encourage owners to lease vacant homes rather than keep them idle. The firm has also highlighted the potential use of unused government land in cities for high-density rental housing projects. These homes would remain rental-only, cater to eligible income groups and stay under government ownership.

Capital gains and green building support

To reduce stress for home sellers, the consultancy has recommended extending the completion period for under-construction homes under Section 54 from three years to five years. It has also suggested giving sellers more time to purchase a new home before selling an existing one.

On sustainability, Knight Frank India has supported a central subsidy for green buildings to offset part of the additional cost of eco-friendly materials and technology.

Industry view ahead of the Budget

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said the housing market requires timely policy intervention to address affordability gaps, strengthen rental housing and align incentives with current costs.

–Times Property

City buyers go resort-style farming

Buyers investing in farmland with farmhouses are no longer focused solely on greenery and cultivation. There is a growing preference for resort-style amenities alongside opportunities to grow commercial trees such as sandalwood, mahogany and teak. As a result, managed farmland projects that combine farmhouses, plantation options and leisure facilities are emerging as a profitable investment model. Compared with investments in apartments or plots, farmland with resort facilities on the outskirts of cities is now seen as offering better returns, leading to strong demand, especially from Bengaluru residents seeking weekend homes in peaceful, green surroundings.

Dhanalakshmi N, a realtor, said many urban buyers are investing in fertile farmland with ready-built farmhouses, enjoying both income and lifestyle benefits. Areas along Mysuru–Bengaluru Road and near Shravanabelagola are especially popular. Such properties promise capital appreciation and steady monthly income, making them attractive to city investors. **–BMB**

Cost and comfort shape students' housing choices

Accommodation is one of the key factors students consider when planning their higher studies away from home. Hostels may be affordable but rarely offer the comfort or amenities students hope for. Paying guest (PG) accommodation fares better in terms of facilities and a home-like environment but may come at the cost of privacy. Renting a flat with roommates is another popular option, but it involves managing chores, bills, and the inevitable lease renewal every 11 months.

Hostels remain popular, but co-living is emerging as a premium alternative. While hostels offer the basics, co-living provides a more comfortable, amenity-rich experience at a higher cost. Students should weigh these options carefully for the next academic year.

Hostel life

Hostels are often the most economical choice for students and offer a structured lifestyle. However, they generally lack privacy and may not provide the comfort or flexibility many students desire.

Co-living

Premium brands in this space offer plug-and-play rentals with low deposit options. "Students get a premium living experience with shared amenities such as Wi-Fi, housekeeping, gyms, and community events, while also reducing living costs by up to 30–35 per cent compared to renting a one-bedroom flat. Community and networking opportunities significantly enhance a student's social life by fostering friendships, study groups, and professional networks, which are especially useful for outstation students. These spaces also ensure seamless app-based payment models, making them hassle-free for both students and parents, while offering safety and convenience," says Rohit Reddy, co-founder and CEO of Truliv.

Co-living focuses on lifestyle, offering flexible spaces with modern amenities like gyms, lounges, co-study areas, smart tech, and eco-friendly systems. Located near colleges and city hubs, many providers also remove brokerage and deposit hassles.

However, co-living is pricier than hostels, reflecting amenities and urban locations. For budget-conscious students, the extra cost may outweigh convenience. There's also a risk of commercialisation, with sustainability and student well-being taking a backseat, and options are mostly limited to Tier I cities.

What should you choose?

Choosing between a hostel and co-living depends on a student's needs. Hostels suit younger students seeking affordability and structure; co-living suits older students seeking independence, comfort, and networking. Budget, safety, location, and community are key factors.

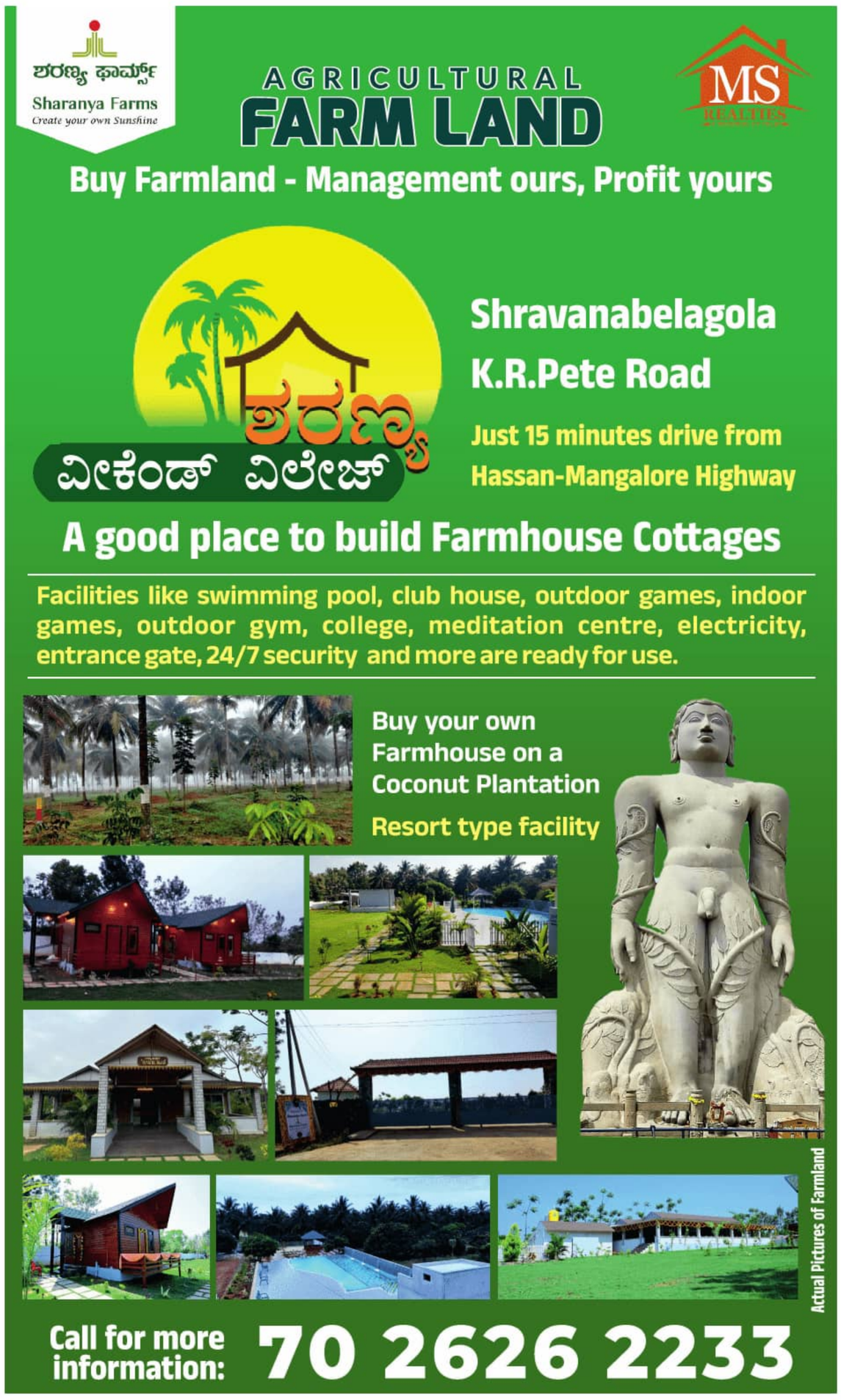
–Times Property

High-end boom, affordable homes bust

With the housing market showing a widening divide between high-end sales and a shrinking affordable supply, Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group, said India risks making home ownership unattainable for a large section of buyers unless corrective steps are taken in Budget 2026. He pointed out that falling affordable housing supply, rising property prices and higher EMIs have created structural stress, despite strong headline figures in real estate sales.

Puri said the Budget should revive the Section 80-IBA tax holiday for affordable housing, revise the affordable housing price cap to reflect current urban costs, accelerate urban infrastructure development, and strengthen the Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme to support first-time homebuyers, adding that timely policy action is critical to preventing a deeper divide in the housing market.

Amit Goyal, Managing Director, India Sotheby's International Realty, said, "The Budget should balance fiscal discipline with growth, sustain real estate momentum, and fund urban development to tackle pollution, infrastructure, and liveability—boosting investor confidence." **–BMB**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'Digitisation alone cannot fix entrenched issues'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

licence in November 2025 — said the system had become smoother but not more legitimate. This time, they engaged a private agent recommended by a friend, who coordinated paperwork via a phone call and WhatsApp. The learner licence was issued online within a week, and a final driving test slot was booked by the agent.

However, the author alleges the actual test was a mere formality. According to the post, a driving instructor sat in the passenger seat with duplicated controls — clutch, brake and steering — and guided the car through the test track. The applicant was asked to press the accelerator only once or twice, and the officials present did not intervene.

"They knew exactly what was happening and said nothing," the Redditor wrote, concluding that the licence system remains "efficient at being broken." Bangalore Mirror also spoke to a mother-daughter duo who went through a similar experience and received their driving licences without having to legitimately pass the test.

The post struck a chord with other users reporting similar concerns about corruption or irregularities during the driving licence process in the city. Former Reddit posts have described applicants being asked for unofficial payments or paying extra to have their test marked as passed.

Road safety specialists say such accounts point to deeper structural problems within the licencing framework. "When driving tests are reduced to formalities, the entire purpose of licensing collapses. A licence is a certification of competence. If that certification is compromised, every road user pays the price," said a Bengaluru-based traffic safety researcher. He noted that the continued dependence on agents reflects a trust deficit between citizens and the system. "People turn to middlemen because they believe the official route will either delay or deny them services. That perception itself is evidence of governance failure," he said.

An urban mobility expert noted that digitisation alone cannot fix entrenched practices. "Putting forms online does not automatically eliminate corruption or poor enforcement. Unless test tracks are monitored independently and evaluators are held accountable, these problems will continue," she said.

Experts argue that stricter supervision, automated testing systems and regular audits of RTO operations are essential to restore confidence in the licensing process. They also stress that road safety outcomes are directly linked to how rigorously licences are issued.

Rash driving cases surge

Cases of rash and negligent driving in Bengaluru saw a sharp rise in 2025 compared with the previous year, according to official police data. Around 6,872 cases were registered last year for offences such as dangerous driving, wrong-way driving, and other traffic violations — an increase of nearly 82% from the 3,774 cases recorded in 2024.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police attribute the surge largely to stricter enforcement and expanded preventive measures on city roads. Officials said that under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police now book cases not only for overtly dangerous driving but also for actions that disrupt traffic flow or pose safety risks, including driving against traffic. They also pointed to an expansion in jurisdiction, with three new traffic police stations added in 2025, contributing to higher detection and reporting.

While fatal accidents showed a slight decline during the year, non-fatal crashes increased marginally, highlighting continuing safety concerns. Commuters say reckless driving remains a daily issue, driven by congestion, time pressures, and poor lane discipline. Many believe enforcement alone cannot change behaviour.

Road safety experts echo this view, stressing that sustained improvement will require a combination of strict enforcement, public education, targeted training for high-risk road users, and infrastructure designed to promote predictable and orderly movement on Bengaluru's increasingly crowded roads.

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CHANGE OF NAME

NOORULLA Musthafa Basha S/O Mustafa Basha # 22 Kousar Nagar Blr-32 have changed my name to Noorulla for all purposes.

I, Abdul Kareem sabjan S/o Sabjan, No-15, lalbagh fort road, 2nd cross, shusheela coumpound, doddamavalli, B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Abdul Kareem

I, CHETANA V, Residing at No. 198, 402, 5th Flr, Srinivasa Residency, 3rd Main, 3rd Crs, 7th Stage, BEML Layout – 560098, have changed my name to CHETANA, vide affidavit dated 12/01/2026. sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore

I, Karan Balakrishnan Nambiar S/o Bhaskaran Balakrishnan, R/o No 309 5th Main Road 1st Block, Koramangala Agara, Bengaluru - 560034, Have Chnaged My Name to Karan Nambiar for All Purposes.

I, Aditya Dhanush Ashok Kumar R/o No.72/B, Hanuman -thappa compound,Kanaka - pura road, Jaraganahalli, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Aditya Dhanush. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I P Karthika D/O P Bhanu Prasad /o flat FF2 sai krishna eleganacy 5th main spoorthy nagar Arehalli village uttrahalli hobli Bangalore 560061 I have changed my name to Karthika Pasam for all purposes

I, LIKITHA M J, Residing at No.25, 6th Cross, Akshay Green Layout, Sarjapura, Bangalore-562125, have changed my name to LIKHITHA M J, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I Unnithan Priyanka D/O, Babulal Unnithan R/o A-1203, Lake Verandahs, House Of Hiranandani, Begur, Akshayanagar, Bengaluru - 560076 have changed my name to Priyanka Unnithan.

I SUSHMITA DAS residing at No. 206/1, Kukkeshree Nilaya Venkatapura Jakkasandra Signal Koramangala 1st Block Bangalore -560034 hereby declare that my name in my son SAMUJJAL PAUL's School record my name is mentioned as SUSHMITA PAUL instead of SUSHMITA DAS. Names have been rectified as said above vide affidavit dated 16.01.2026 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore

I, MANUKUMARA D A, Residing at Devipura Talagavadi Post, Kirugavalu, Malavalli, Mandya – 571430, have changed my name to MANUKUMAR D A, vide affidavit dated 29/12/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, C G SRINIVASA RAO, Residing at No. 277, 9th Main, Nagendra Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore – 560050, have changed my name to C G SRINIVAS RAO, vide affidavit dated 17/12/2025. sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, SOUMYA K P, Residing at Narahalli Village, Shamboonahalli Post, Melukote, Pandavapura Taluk -57143, have changed my name to SOWMYA K P, vide affidavit dated 18/12/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, SURESHA N C, Residing at Narahalli Village, Shamboonahalli Post, Melukote Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk - 571431, have changed my name to SURESH N C, vide affidavit dated 18/12/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, LATHA HARISH, Residing at No.13, 23rd Cross, Kilari Road, Chickpet, Bangalore – 560053, have changed my name to LATHA M, vide affidavit dated 03/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, CHAITANYA PUTTA OBALA REDDY, Residing at No. 018, Brahmaputra Block, Amruth Sarovar Apt, Kadugodi Post Bangalore – 560067, have changed my name to BEEGALA CHAITANYA REDDY, vide affidavit dated 09/01/2026. sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, VANITHA NARASIMHA MURTHY, Residing at No. 204, Marvel Springs, Dr Arunachalm Rd, BEML Layout, RR Nagar, Bangalore – 560098, have changed my name to VANITHA MURTHY, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Athokpam Getabali Devi , mother of Mona Athokpam have changed my name from Gitabali Athokpam wife of Kennedy Athokpam and affidavit IN-KA464997574923731W dated 12 Nov 2024

I, Riyaz Abdul Kareem S/o Abdul Kareem, No-15, lalbagh fort road, 2nd cross, shusheela coumpound, doddamavalli, B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Riyaz Abdul Kareem shaikh

I, Babu Basha Saheb S/o Basha Saheb R/o No 61/2, 2nd Main, 18th Cross, Lakkasandra, Adugodi, Bengaluru - 560030 Have Chnaged My Name to Rafeeq Pasha for All Purposes.

I, Priya Das R/o.Provident Harmony,flat No A3-304, chokkanahalli main road, B'luru 560064 have changed my name to Priya Das Roy for all purposes.

I Raj Dipak Panchal S/O, Dipak Panchal R/o A-1203, Lake Verandahs, House Of Hiranandani, Begur, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Raj Panchal .

I, Bharath Skandappan R/o Phase 1 - 403, Siddartha Solitaire, Hosa Rd, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from Diya Divya to Diya Bharath.

I, LAKSHMI VADDE, Residing at GF5, Balaji Nest, 4th Block, 12th Main 5th Crs, Hennur Cross, Bangalore -560043, have changed my name to MANGAMMA V ALIAS LAKSHMI V, vide affidavit dated 12/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, H B MANJANATHA, Residing at No. 08, Chandrappa Build, 4th Cross, Avalahalli Muneshwara Block, Bangalore – 560026, have changed my name to H B MANJANATHA RAO, vide affidavit dated 01/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

ANITA HEBBALLI, Residing at No.124, 2nd Main, EWSKHB Colony, 1st Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 560079 have changed my name to ANITHA MOHAN KUMAR, vide affidavit dated 09/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Vivek, S/o Kabbalaiah, have changed my name from Vivek to Vivek K as per Aadhaar and for all future official records. Henceforth, I shall be known as Vivek K.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to transact with the Schedule Property mentioned herein below.

Any person/s claiming to have any right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and/or any part thereof, is required to intimate the same, together with true copies of all documentary evidence/ proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, **within 15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our Certificate of Title will be issued without any reference to any such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Municipal Old No. 1632, New No. 2038, Present No. 269, E-PID No. 6336635227 measuring East to West 120 Feet, North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 3600 Square Feet of Sital Area and having a Built Up Area of 1379.99 Square Feet and 619.99 Square Feet situated at No. 269, Sri Krishna Vilas, Sampige Road, 2nd Main Road, Malleshwaram, Ward No. 35-Aramane Nagar, Bengaluru-560 003 and bounded on

East by : Sampige 2nd Main Road;
West by : Conservancy Road;
North by: Property belonging to VA Krishnamurthy;
South by : Property belonging to Thangammal.

Sowmya H R
Sowmya & Associates,
Solicitors and Advocates
No.183 (Old No.131),
5th Main, 8th Cross,
Bull Temple Road,
NR Colony, Bangalore-560 019,
Phone: 9845218448

Never pretty enough— Oscar-winning actor Jennifer Lawrence recalled how she missed being part of Quentin Tarantino's film "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" as trolls thought she wasn't "pretty enough" to essay the role of late actor Sharon Tate

BangaloreMirror | 11
Saturday, January 17, 2026
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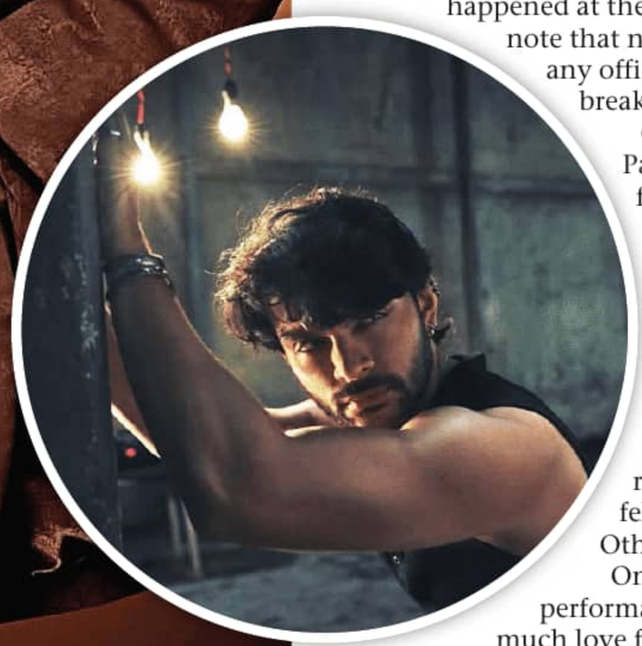
Down splitsville road

Break-up rumours fuelled as Tara steps out alone



Tara Sutaria was seen alone in public days after reports about her breakup with Veer Pahariya. She was spotted at the Mumbai airport on Friday morning. As seen in the video shared by Instant Bollywood, the paparazzi were already waiting outside the terminal. Tara gave a small wave but did not stop.

The 'Toxic' actress did not look at the cameras and she did not respond when photographers called her name. She walked ahead fast and kept her space. This was her first solo appearance after the breakup talk started.

Earlier this month, social media was full of news about Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya parting ways. This happened just days after the Excuses singer hugged and kissed Tara during his Mumbai concert. Before this, Tara had spoken strongly against negativity around her relationship. After the reports came out, many people started guessing the reasons. Some linked it to what happened at the concert. But it is important to note that neither Tara nor Veer has shared any official statement about their breakup.

On Wednesday night, Veer Pahariya shared a few pictures from a recent photoshoot on Instagram. The photos looked calm and stylish. But it was the caption that caught attention. He wrote, "whether time is bad or good, it always changes one day or the other…"

After this, fans started reading between the lines. Many felt it was about love and loss. Others felt it was just about life.

On the work front, Veer's performance in 'Sky Force' had received much love from the audiences. **—ETimes**

Join the bandwagon

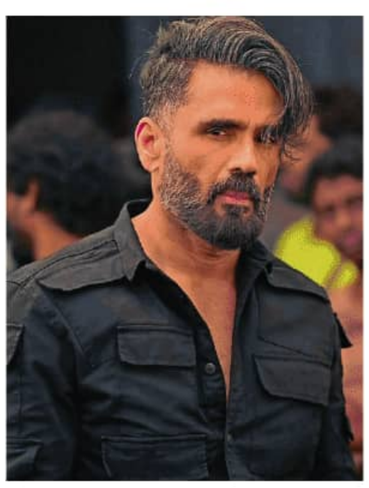
Actress Khushi Kapoor is the latest celeb to join the new social media trend of posting throwback photos and videos from the year 2016.

As Khushi also uploaded a couple of glimpses of the 'cooler' version of herself back from 2016 on her IG, her elder sister and actress Janhvi Kapoor asked in the comment, "Why is everyone doing this" (sic).

Khushi's latest social media post included some old photos of the 'Nadaaniyan' actress. While most of these stills have Khushi posing solo, she is accompanied by Janhvi and others in a few of these captures.

"I was definitely way cooler in 2016 (sic)", Khushi wrote the caption. Before this, Khushi's cousin and Bollywood diva, Sonam Kapoor, also decided to jump on the trend and reflect on her 2016 self. She revisited the time when her "Neerja" reached the cinema halls, and Sonam was also coming to terms with her feelings for her Anand Ahuja. "Throwback to 2016, release of Neerja, shooting with @thehouseofpixels for the first time, figuring out that @anandahuja is the love of my life," Sonam said. **—IANS**

Suniel on the shift debate



Deepika Padukone's exit from 'Spirit' sparked a new debate in the industry about long work hours in the film industry. And recently, actor Suniel Shetty shared his opinion about this. The veteran actor shared that he doesn't like to extend and exhaust himself.

In an interview with Mid-Day, Suniel Shetty shared that he has lived the life in his own way. The actor said, "Even being a part of the industry, I have only made sure that I work during my work hours. If it's a 9 to 6, I would expect it to be 9 to 6." He added that if his producer is facing financial issues, he would readily extend his shift. He said, "If my producer is in trouble, I'll do a 9 to 9 the next morning, but that understanding is important; otherwise, you can't get the best output from me." Suniel said, "You're talking about 12-hour or 18-hour work. It's not possible." The actor went on to share that he was an "action hero," and if he doesn't "get my break or my lunch, I become the most irritable person. I need that break because that's what recharges me. So, if you want the best output, you give me my breaks." **—ETimes**

Action-packed entertainer

Director Sagar Dass has attempted to keep the audiences entertained by including a number of action and song sequences. The director tries to narrate the story in a unique method. The movie features all categories of actors and all of them have added value.

The movie is also loaded with romance, emotion, and sentiments. Some of the scenes, especially those featuring orphans in a slum, are sentimental. The downside of the movie is the lack of comedy.

The movie begins with Tony (Kadipudi Chandru) getting killed by Maari (Ravi Shankar). Later, the scene is shifted to an engineering college where Bhumika (Harshitha) tries to avoid Surya (Prashanth Surya), a topper in the college. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating how Bhumika fell in love with Surya and how she broke up with him after coming to know that he is an orphan. In an unavoidable circumstance, Mamatha (Shruthi) meets Surya. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Surya and how he is related to Magmata.

SURYA: THE POWER OF LOVE
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sagar Dass
- **ACTORS** Prashanth Surya, Harshitha MK, Ravi Shankar, Shruthi, Pramod Shetty, TS Nagabharana,
- **Duration** 128 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Prashanth Surya, who plays the protagonist, has tried to utilise the opportunity to showcase his acting skills. Surya looks good in action and emotional scenes. Harshitha has to hone her skills though she looks beautiful and energetic in dance scenes but she falls short in emotional scenes. Deepika Gowda, who plays a flower seller, has acted well. Her dialogue delivery and performance in action scenes are superb. Veteran actress Shruthi and Ravi Shankar add value to the movie. TS Nagabharana plays a police officer. Pramod Shetty and Bala Rajwadi provide good support.

The movie is worth a watch for those who crave action movies.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE'S SPECIALIST SYMBIOSIS

Our reader shares a striking image of a squash bee deep in its specialised task, pollinating a pumpkin flower amid a quiet agricultural landscape. Unlike generalist pollinators, the squash bee is uniquely adapted to butternut squash, gourds, and pumpkins, carrying their large, heavy pollen grains that cannot travel by wind. Moving purposefully from male to female flowers—sometimes across considerable distances — the bee ensures fertilisation and crop survival. The image captures a moment of pure ecological symbiosis, highlighting how survival in nature often depends on precise, fragile partnerships shaped by evolution's relentless logic.

The picture was clicked by reader **P Suryanarayana**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

GBA Khata freeze leaves thousands of B'luru properties legally stranded

Bifurcation ban, stalled A-khata conversions and vacant plot rejections trap owners, despite online systems and revenue potential exceeding ₹5,000 cr.

Property owners within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits are struggling to get khata-related services for their assets, with khata bifurcation remaining suspended for several years now. On one hand, the conversion of B-khata properties to A-khata has moved at a snail's pace, and on the other, there is no provision at all for khata division, leaving thousands of citizens stuck with unusable property records.

Residents say a policy shift has worsened the situation. Earlier, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) approved khata bifurcation, but this power has now been transferred to the GBA's town planning wing. However, officials maintain that approvals can be issued only after amendments are made to zonal regulations. Despite the issue affecting a large number of property owners, the GBA has not initiated concrete steps to amend the rules, resulting in a prolonged standstill.

The freeze has had a severe impact on owners of ancestral properties, jointly owned assets and large land parcels that have been divided into smaller sites. Property owners say they have been waiting for years for khata bifurcation. When family properties are divided among siblings, each individual requires a separate khata. Similarly, khata bifurcation is mandatory for selling a portion of a site, constructing on part of a plot or availing bank loans. With no approvals forthcoming, many owners say they are unable to sell, build or raise loans against their properties.

The problem is compounded by the refusal to issue new khatas for vacant sites. Even sites where old buildings have been demolished are not being granted khata. Applications are often rejected, and in several cases applicants are not informed of the status or reasons for rejection. Residents say officials

Years-long regulatory gaps at GBA have paralysed khata bifurcation and conversions, blocking sales, construction and loans, as officials promise internal fixes amid rising citizen frustration and financial stress

have failed to address grievances, pushing many into financial distress. The issue is particularly acute in areas that were merged into the BBMP from village panchayats, city municipal councils and town municipal councils. Although the revenue department has shifted services such as e-khata and B-khata to A-khata conversion online to curb corruption, citizens say the move has not translated into smoother service delivery. Without khata, properties cannot be sold or mortgaged, cutting off access to loans and legitimate transactions.

Around 5,000 applications have been submitted seeking A-khata for B-khata properties. Officials say nearly 99 per cent of applicants failed to upload layout plan documents, submitting only property photographs. As a result, no conversions have been completed so far. The GBA has now decided to generate the required layout documents internally, a move officials say could unlock revenue exceeding ₹5,000 crore. **— BMB**

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Absence of khata approvals has left many developed and redeveloped sites officially unrecorded, despite years of repeated applications

DID YOU KNOW?

Astronomers have spotted an unusual white dwarf tearing through space, creating a vivid, multicoloured shockwave that has left scientists searching for answers. The Earth-sized stellar remnant is part of a close binary system in the Milky Way, about 730 light-years away in the constellation Auriga, where it is gravitationally bound to a low-mass red dwarf companion. As the two stars orbit each other every 80 minutes, the white dwarf's intense gravity pulls gas from its companion along powerful magnetic field lines. This material crashes onto the white dwarf's magnetic poles, releasing energy. However, observations from the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope reveal something unexpected: a glowing bow shock formed as fast-moving material from the white dwarf ploughs into surrounding interstellar gas. The shockwave shines red, green and blue, produced by excited hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen. While a few white dwarfs with surrounding gas disks have shown similar features, this system lacks such a disk, making the source of the outflow a mystery. The structure suggests the process has persisted for at least 1,000 years. Beyond its scientific puzzle, the image highlights how dynamic and sculpted interstellar space truly is. **— Reuters**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Trump repeats false claims when discussing Greenland's security in the Arctic

THE CLAIM: Donald Trump claims Greenland is surrounded by Russian and Chinese warships, poorly defended by Denmark, and risks foreign occupation unless the U S takes control for Arctic national security.
FACT: Experts and officials from Greenland and Denmark say no Chinese or Russian fleets surround Greenland; Denmark maintains robust defences, and no credible occupation threat exists.

US President Donald Trump has made the idea of an American takeover of Greenland a recurring theme of his second term, framing it as a national security imperative while advancing claims that experts and local officials say are unfounded. Trump has even suggested that the use of military force could be an option, arguing that if the United States does not take control of the island, it could fall into the hands of Russia or China.

Speaking about Arctic security, Trump claimed that Russian and Chinese destroyers and submarines are operating near Greenland and that the U S must act to prevent a foreign occupation. However, Arctic security experts have repeatedly rejected these assertions. Analysts note that Russia's main naval activity is concentrated in the Barents Sea, closer to Scandinavia, while China's limited Arctic presence is primarily scientific, involving research vessels in the central Arctic Ocean. Joint Russian-Chinese military exercises in the region have taken place near Alaska, not Greenland.

"This statement makes no sense in terms of facts," said Andreas Østhagen of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, adding that neither Russia nor China has the capacity or intent to occupy Greenland. Residents of Greenland's capital, Nuuk, echoed this view, dismissing Trump's claims as exaggerated or outright fantasy. Greenland's business minister, Naaja Nathanielsen, said authorities are not aware of any such military buildup and stressed that there is no detected threat to the island.

Trump has also mocked Denmark's ability to defend Greenland, joking that its defence consists of "two dog sleds." In reality, Denmark maintains a structured military presence in the Arctic. This includes the elite Sirius Dog Sled Patrol, which conducts long-range reconnaissance in areas inaccessible by roads, as well as naval patrol vessels, surveillance aircraft, and a growing investment in Arctic defence capabilities. Denmark's Joint Arctic Command, headquartered in Nuuk, oversees surveillance and sovereignty enforcement across Greenland and the Faroe Islands, both of which are strategically important within NATO's North Atlantic monitoring framework. Historically, Trump has questioned Denmark's sovereignty over Greenland, suggesting that early European landings do not justify ownership. Historians counter that Greenland has a long Indigenous history dating back thousands of years, followed by Norse settlement around A D 985 and formal Danish colonization beginning in the 18th century. Denmark's sovereignty was later recognised internationally, including by the United States.

Today, Greenland is a self-governing territory within the Danish kingdom, with the legal right to pursue independence if its population chooses. Experts emphasise that modern international law prioritises self-determination and respect for borders, making the notion of forcibly acquiring territory incompatible with post–World War II norms. **— AP**

HEALTH TIP: Eggs are a protein powerhouse that promote satiety, preserve muscle during weight loss, and help curb cravings

Begin your mornings with a handful of nuts that supports metabolism and prevent binge eating

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DON'T GIVE UP

Forget New Year's resolutions, there is a better approach to making real changes

How are your New Year's resolutions going? If you've given up on them, you're not alone.

Every January, people across the world seek a fresh start and set goals for the year to improve their health and quality of life. Dry January and new gym memberships accompany a desire to shake off the stress and holiday pounds.

But research shows that resolutions typically don't last. As a practising psychologist and professor of counseling psychology, I have seen many people start off the new year with lofty self-improvement goals, only to become frustrated and give up early into the new year.

This happens so frequently that popular media has even coined the name "Quitter's Day" for the second Friday in January –when most people have given up on their resolutions.

However, there is a way to continue your self-improvement goals and find success by making changes that offer incremental rewards instead of frustration. My students and clients are consistently surprised by how small actions and practices bring about big rewards. Below are a few manageable and meaningful practices to adopt that can last well after the new year's motivation fades.

Why don't resolutions work?

Most New Year's resolutions tend to be restrictive or rely on willpower, such as eliminating alcohol and sugar from your diet, or exercising every morning.

The problem is that these types of commitments force us to do something we don't really want to do. And success takes time: It can take more than six weeks before improvements from exercise become apparent.

It comes as no surprise, then, that these goals are often short-lived and unsuccessful in the long term – it is hard to be successful when we are battling ourselves to do things that don't come naturally, without immediate rewards. In reality, people prefer immediate gratification and simultaneously tend to downplay the benefit of waiting for longer-term rewards.

Be kind – to yourself

We are often much nicer to our friends, and even to strangers, than we are to ourselves.

Kristin Neff, a psychologist and leader in self-compassion research, teaches that by mindfully quieting our inner critic and being as compassionate to ourselves as we would be to a friend, we can significantly improve our well-being.

Research shows that people who practice being their own partner or teammate – rather than an opponent – feel happier and more confident. The rewards from this type of self-compassion can be seen and felt faster than the results of diet and exercise, and can help us make better choices in multiple aspects of our daily lives.

In my personal and professional life, I have seen people succeed most often when they change how they relate to themselves. In other words, instead of being intensely critical of our emotions and what we are thinking, we are able to be gentler with our experience and be more accepting of our own thoughts and feelings. When we receive these emotional rewards, we feel relief and happiness – payoffs that make it far easier to enthusiastically repeat the pattern.

Engaging in this kind of self-compassion also allows us to better cope with stress and our emotions.

Small shifts in gratitude and outward kindness go a long way

Another evidence-based way to improve overall well-being is to focus on the what's going well for you and what you are grateful for – in the moment, or more broadly, in your life.

Instead of focusing on whether you succeeded on your initial resolutions, try journaling three good things at the end of each day. In doing so, focus less on the big successes – though they count, too – and instead on the small moments you enjoyed, such as the hug from a friend, the quiet moment with coffee or the smile from a stranger.

Practice random acts of kindness to boost mood and well-being. Reach out to a friend you haven't talked to in a while or buy coffee for a stranger in the coffee shop. These activities provide an emotional boost that can last for hours, if not days.

Making these small shifts can help stave off the stress and guilt that can thwart your self-improvement goals.

Mindful eating

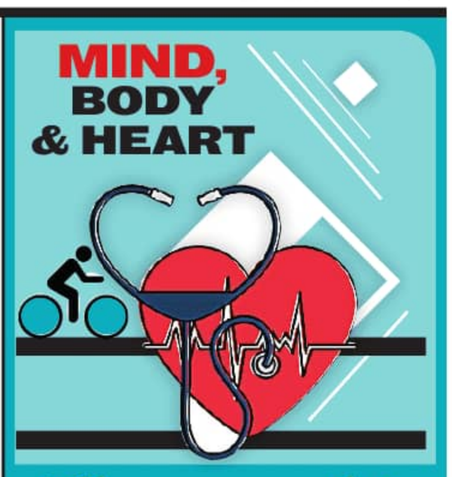
The well-known practice of mindfulness encourages paying attention – without judgment – to the present moment.

Research shows that taking time to slow down and savor the moment has substantial physical and psychological benefits, such as lowering stress and improving focus, among others. In fact, mindfulness even has the power to change brain connections, leading to greater control over our emotions.

So perhaps this year, instead of focusing on willpower or restriction, choose connection with yourself and others instead.

Doing so will improve your happiness and your overall well-being, long after the New Year's resolutions fade.

(Michele Patterson Ford, Dickinson College, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Ways to good health

1. Seek good health
Nothing is more vital for happiness than glowing health. Fitness expert Mrinalini Mukherjee advises, "Strive towards enhancing your optimum health. This will lighten your mood, increase energy levels, and lead to a spontaneous unlocking of inner happiness." You can attain this through a regular exercise programme and by eating and sleeping well.

2. Enhance your inner beauty
Experts agree that most people associate a well-groomed woman with confidence and would naturally find her more dependable than someone more sloppily turned out. "Knowing that you're wanted, whether at work or in the personal sphere, is a very happy feeling", says image consultant Gunjan Jain.

3. Surround yourself with pleasant fragrances
Research has found that when exposed to beautiful aromas, women showed lower anxiety levels and felt happy from within.

4. Earn the bucks
It is true that money can buy you happiness, to an extent. Pursuing a career you have long hoped to be in, working hard and reaping the monetary benefits to buy yourself gifts does increase the happiness quotient manifold.

5. Reach out to your family and friends
You can't be yourself or truly let go unless you are with family and close friends. Plenty of laughter, reminiscing over the past, sharing great news or diluting the effects of the not-so-great are truly possible only in their company.

6. Sing along
Research says music stimulates parts of the brain that produce happiness and gives you a high, almost as much as sex or your favourite food does.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Your mouth bacteria can predict risk of chronic liver disease, says study

Your mouth bacteria can significantly affect your gut health, and predict the risk of chronic liver disease, finds a study.

Each year, more than two million people die from advanced chronic liver disease (ACLD).

In the study, published in the journal Nature Microbiology, the researchers analysed bacterial populations in saliva and stool samples from 86 patients.

The team from the Technical University of Munich in Germany found that both the gut and oral microbiome undergo significant changes as liver disease worsens, where changes to the oral microbiome were already detectable at earlier disease stages.

In healthy individuals, bacterial communities differ substantially between body sites.

But, in patients with liver disease, oral and gut microbiomes became increasingly similar as the disease progressed, and nearly identical bacterial strains were recovered from the mouths and guts of patients.

"These strains are typically found in the mouth and are rarely present in the healthy gut. However, we observed increases in the absolute abundances of these oral bacteria in patients with advanced chronic liver disease," said Melanie Schirmer, Professor of Translational Microbiome Data Integration at TUM. "This strongly suggests that these bacteria translocate from the mouth and colonise the gut," Schirmer added.

Further, the team identified several oral bacterial species that colonised patients' guts.

They also found evidence that higher levels of these bacteria in stool samples were associated with damage to the intestinal barrier.

Gene analysis showed that these bacteria carry genes encoding collagen-degradation enzymes.

The team confirmed these enzymes were active by testing isolated bacteria from stool samples and synthesising the enzyme.

— IANS

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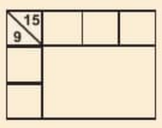
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

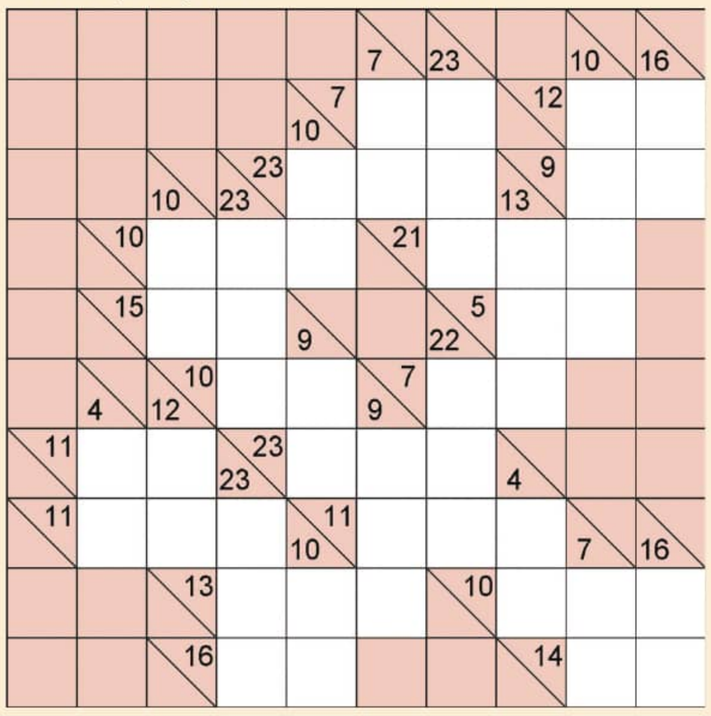
$= \sqrt[6]{[\sqrt[2]{3} \times (9^{\wedge}\sqrt{2})^{\wedge}\sqrt{2}]} = ?$

Kakuro

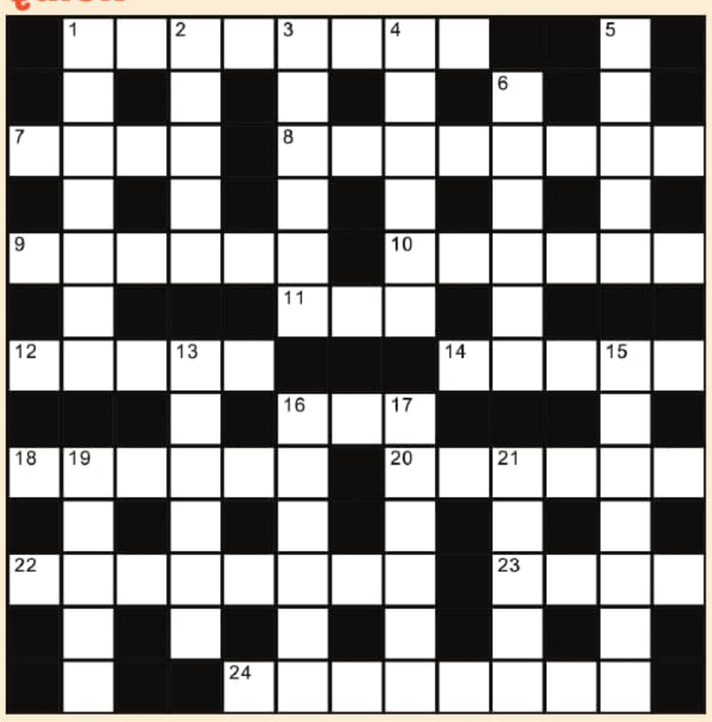
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Partition in a ship (8)
7 Ponder (4)
8 Long ribbon (8)
9 Breakwater (6)
10 Slip by; pass away (6)
11 Lair of a lion (3)
12 Accomplished (5)
14 A sort of cat (5)
16 Flat-crowned hat (3)
18 Former name for River Krishna (6)
20 Abut or border on (6)
22 Birth to death (8)
23 Entreat or beg (4)
24 Give out (8)

DOWN

1 Out of focus? (7)
2 Sweet on a stick (5)
3 Very quiet or silent (6)
4 Pilots (6)
5 Sets loose (5)
6 Rhythm instrument (6)
13 Put in a jar? (6)
15 Turn "a bridge" around to get a popular road (7)
16 Pacific island (6)
17 Cosmetics (4-2)
19 More chilly or colder (5)
21 Far Eastern country (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS Y

ER EZXDG DBXVI, GRX UXQE FP BFDP ER EBNP GRXZ CBMS, BSH CDBG TMEI ME!

Linemaro

Walk in the shadow. Chocolate melts in the sun

Mindchow

For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness

Joke of the day

What is even smarter than a talking bird? A spelling bee

Loop

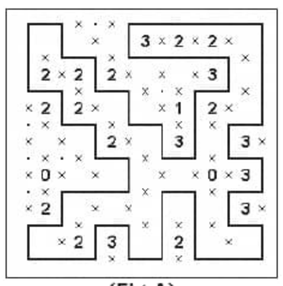
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

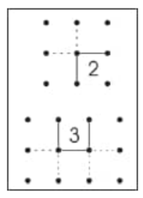
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

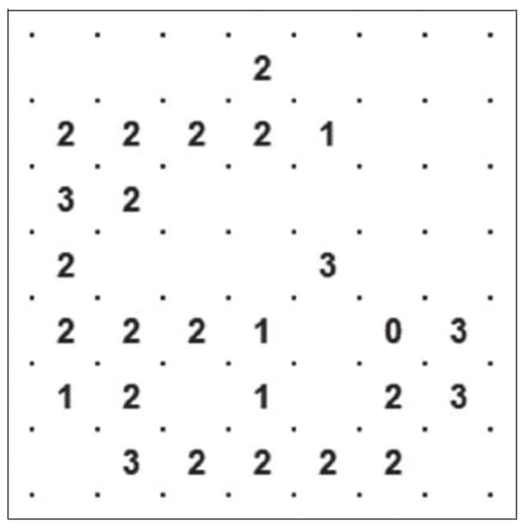
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



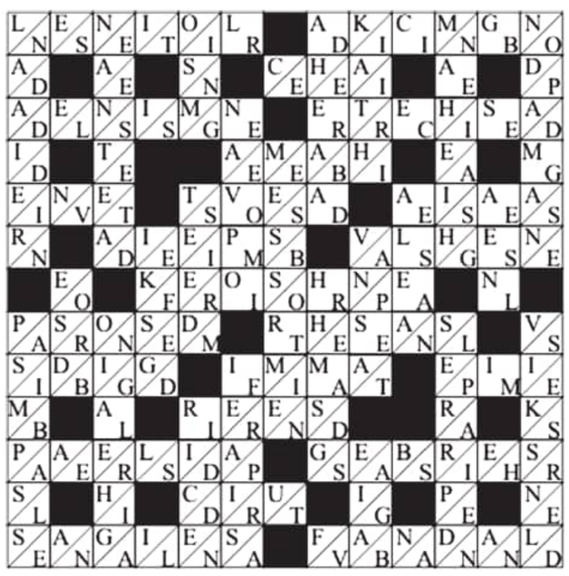
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



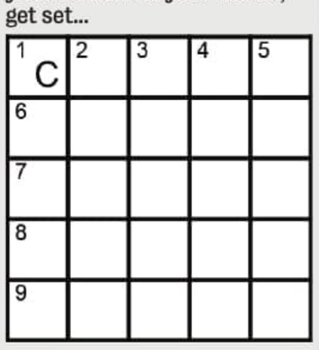
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Pasch; 6 Manor; 7 Tune I; 8 Con I'm; 9 Rook B

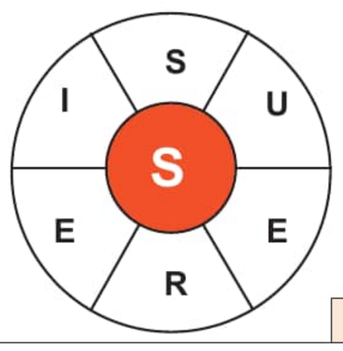
DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Rho no; 3 Naomi; 4 Pi oat; 5 Necks

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the blank segment of the last circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8				5		
			3		2			
	2	4				3	7	
6			1		8			7
5		3	9		4	1		6
4			6		7			3
	3	7				8	2	
			4		9			
		5				9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

2 3 5 6

Medium = 11

2 3 3 4

Hard = 37

4 5 6 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

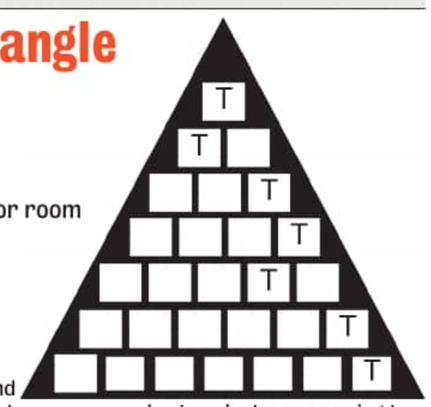
Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Lamp is not as wide. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Eyebrow is lower. 5. Chair is wider. 6. Phone is moved.

Riddler

Get from the word THIN to BARN by changing one letter at a time and forming another English word in each step. 1. THIN 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. BARN

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Infinitive word
3 Auction item
4 Filly's baby boy
5 Coagulates
6 Small cupboard or room
7 Nearest



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

HAPPY DAY! THE PEOPLE ARE COMING TO WELCOME THEIR QUEEN!
THEY'LL SHOWER ME WITH FLOWERS!
THEY IS THOUSINGS OF 'EM!
CLOMP! CLOMP! CLOMP!
HOORAY FOR THE NEW QUEEN!
CLOMP!
WELCOME! CLOMP!
THEY'RE THROWING COCONUTS AT ME!
ISN'T IT THRILLING? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN OUTPOURING OF LOVE BEFORE!
SEE WHAT A FIFTY-BUCK DOWRY WILL BUY?
4-18
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HAVE YOU TAKEN THE "WHAT KIND OF AN ANIMAL ARE YOU?" QUIZ ON THE INTERNET?
A QUIZ?
YEAH, EVERYONE'S TAKING IT
EVERYONE?
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www.creators.com
You are a: Stupid bird

Hart of the city

WE'LL CONSIDER VOTING ON ALLOWING PEOPLE OLDER THAN 12 TO TRICK-OR-TREAT, BUT WE CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE SUGGEST CHAPERONING YOUR KIDS.
IN COSTUME OR NO?
COME TO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE.
DOES THE RULE EXTEND TO ADULTS? BECAUSE I HAVE A GREAT COSTUME THIS YEAR.
ME TOO!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I NEED TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY DOCTOR TO GET A PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING.
GOOD IDEA, RALPH.
YEAH... I HAD MY PRE-TSA CHECKED AT MY LAST EXAM!
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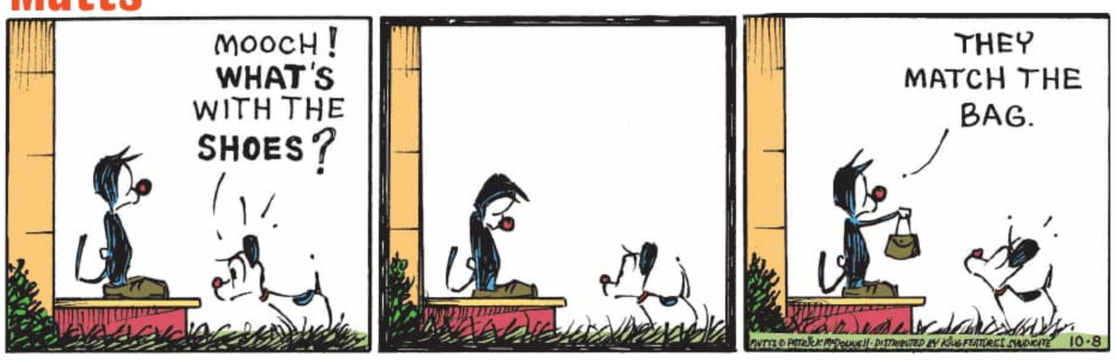
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year is all about embracing the unexpected and seeking personal freedom. Your social life expands dramatically, bringing exciting new friends and opportunities. Don't be afraid to break away from old routines that no longer serve you. Your adaptability will be key to harnessing a surprising influx of positive energy and excitement.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Fresh determination helps you gather needed resources creatively. Wellness improves through mindful practices. Offer guidance confidently. Support a loved one studying away. A refreshing short getaway awaits.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Thoughtful budgeting strengthens financial comfort. Balanced exercise maintains energy. Work feels smooth and engaging. Patience brings harmony at home. Property plans progress positively with the right guidance.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Personal initiative supports impressive wellness improvements. Helpful financial support appears unexpectedly. Professional momentum returns as projects move forward. Family matters receive your steady attention.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Financial growth strengthens confidence while savings increase comfortably. Healthy meal choices support vitality. Work situations improve with timely decisions. A family achievement brings joy. Travel with friends feels refreshing.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Strong financial gains uplift your confidence. Consistent wellness routines bring excellent results. Career progress unfolds smoothly. Family celebrations bring joy. Property opportunities appear aligned with long-term goals.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Abundant resources support meaningful purchases. Your brilliance elevates professional results. Family members appreciate your guidance. Social celebrations keep your spirit cheerful.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Nutritious choices increase your vitality. Comfortable spending habits support long-term financial ease. Workplace success strengthens your reputation. Loving moments brighten partnerships. Shared travel brings happiness.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Investing in new plans becomes favourable. Time management helps you excel. Healthy routines support well-being. Heartwarming home news lifts your mood. Supportive connections enhance your social presence.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Financial progress strengthens security. Wellness thrives through activity. Professional ideas gain appreciation. Family achievements inspire celebration. International travel may unfold joyfully. Social engagements boost happiness.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Savings strengthen as expected income arrives. Healthy choices bring renewed strength. Business initiatives flourish through creative action. Family outings uplift your mood. Travel brings refreshing joy.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

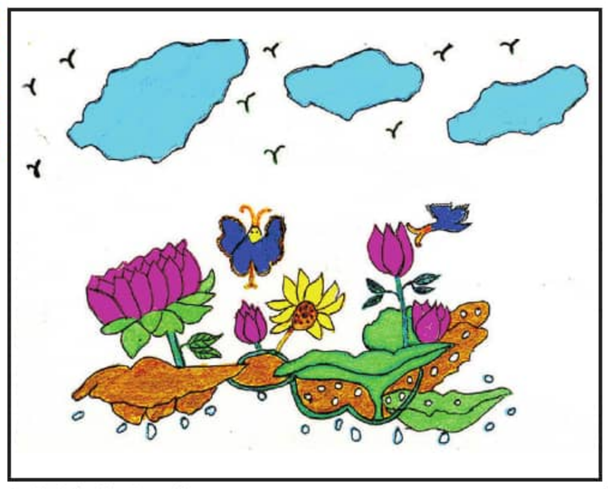
Finances feel comfortable and stable. Strong routines enhance fitness. Work challenges inspire growth. Emotional support strengthens relationships. Property decisions bring confidence. Social activities add joy.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Healthy habits bring renewed vitality. Financial comfort grows steadily. Work beginnings feel exciting and well aligned. Family care surrounds you warmly. Scenic travel brings delight.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Sadhvi Sanju, Bengaluru

Ananya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$=\sqrt[8]{[3^2 \times 9^2]}$
$=\sqrt[8]{[3^2 \times 3^4]}$
$=3^{\frac{6}{8}+6}$
$=3$

BULL'S EYE

issue, REISSUE, rouse, rise, ruse, seer, sire, sure, user

STRIKE OUT

L	E	N	T	I	L	■	A	K	I	M	B	O	■	■
A	■	E	■	N	■	C	H	I	■	A	■	D	■	■
D	E	S	I	G	N	■	E	T	C	H	E	D	■	■
D	■	T	■	A	M	A	H	■	E	■	M	■	■	■
E	V	E	■	T	O	E	D	■	A	S	■	■	■	■
R	■	D	E	E	M	S	■	A	S	H	E	N	■	■
O	■	K	R	I	S	H	N	A	■	L	■	■	■	■
P	R	O	E	M	■	T	E	E	N	S	■	V	■	■
I	B	I	D	■	F	I	A	T	■	P	I	E	■	■
M	■	L	■	R	E	N	D	■	A	■	S	■	■	■
P	E	R	S	I	A	■	S	A	B	R	E	S	■	■
L	■	I	■	■	G	■	■	■	E	■	E	■	■	■
E	A	G	L	E	S	■	V	A	N	D	A	L	■	■

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	P	S
R	O	M	A	N
U	N	I	T	E
M	O	N	I	C
B	R	O	O	K

RIDDLER

Thin, Chin, Coin, Corn, Born, Barn. Other solutions are also possible.

QUICK

B	U	L	K	H	E	A	D	■	■	■	■	■	R	■
U	■	O	■	I	■	M	■	R	■	■	■	■	E	■
L	O	■	S	T	R	E	A	M	E	R	■	■	■	■
K	■	L	■	H	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	E	A	D	■	E	L	A	P	S	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	R	O	Y	N	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	■	L	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	T	R	E	A	M	E	R	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	O	■	I	■	M	■	R	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	U	L	L	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

2. In each circle subtract the right hand digit from the left hand digit, then subtract a further one to give the lower digit.

QUOTE UNCODE

To truly laugh, you must be able to take your pain, and play with it!

SUDOKU

3	6	8	7	9	1	5	4	2
7	5	9	3	4	2	6	1	8
1	2	4	8	6	5	3	7	9
6	9	2	1	3	8	4	5	7
5	7	3	9	2	4	1	8	6
4	8	1	6	5	7	2	9	3
9	3	7	5	1	6	8	2	4
2	1	6	4	8	9	7	3	5
8	4	5	2	7	3	9	6	1

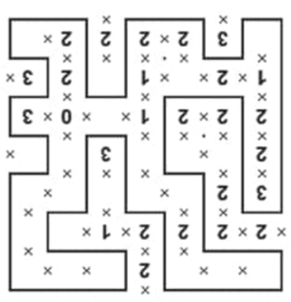
ALPHA TRIANGLE

T, To, Lot, Colt, Clots, Closet, Closest.

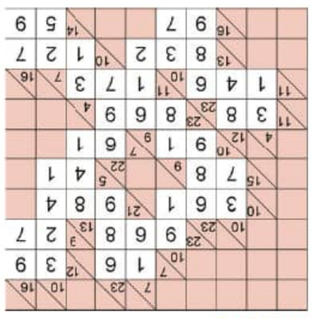
GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 5 − 6 + 2 = 4
Medium
4 x 3 − 3 + 2 = 11
Hard
4 x 9 + 6 − 5 = 37

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 19, Issue No 003 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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